



## ***Cognitive Forensics: The New Frontier of Law and Psychology***

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**Time: 3:00pm-4:45pm**

**Location: EO, room 134**



**In many domains experts are called upon to provide research and analysis. Their expert judgment and decision making is often regarded as error-free, or at least as being objective and impartial. Drawing from the field of criminal justice, I will present research and evidence from real casework that many different types of psychological contaminations affect experts, including fingerprinting and DNA forensic laboratory decision-making. I will articulate the psychological mechanisms by which forensic and other experts make biased and erroneous decisions. This research can help identify such weaknesses and provide practical ways to mitigate them. This new area of 'Cognitive Forensics' deals with a whole scope of cognitive issues in forensic science, which has been ignored for many decades.**

**Dr. Itiel Dror** is a cognitive neuroscientist who received his PhD from Harvard in the area of human expert performance. His insights and understanding of the human brain and cognitive system underpin his work with the US Air Force, medical experts, as well as forensic science and other expert domains. His work has led to the understanding that the perceptions and cognitions of the human examiner play a key role in forensic work, and his studies show that even fingerprint and DNA experts can reach different conclusions when the same evidence is presented within different extraneous contexts. Dr. Dror has developed best practices in forensic work and he has provided training on 'Cognitive Factors in Forensic Decision Making' to the FBI, LAPD, NYPD, Kansas PD, and many other forensic laboratories across the US, Australia, Finland, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Dr. Dror has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles specifically looking at cognitive factors that mediate human expert performance. His findings have been featured in both *Science* and *Nature*, and he has received the ABP Annual Award for his accomplishments and impact in forensic science. He has also been extensively cited in National Academy of Sciences Report on Forensic Science, and was the Chair of the OSAC Forensic Human Factors group. He now divides his time between academic work at University College London (UCL) and applied work at Cognitive Consultants International (CCI-HQ). More information is available at: [www.cci-hq.com](http://www.cci-hq.com)